

**CALFED Ecosystem Roundtable
Meeting Notes for March 16, 1999**

Roundtable members (or their alternates) and

Liaisons present

Jason Peltier (CVPWA)
Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)
Amy Fowler (SCVWD)
Hari Modi (NCPA)
Dan Keppen (NCWA)

David Yargas (EDF) via phone
Doug Wallace (EBMUD)
Laura King (SLDMWA)
Bill Gaines (CWA)
Steve Macaulay (SWC)
Susan Ramos (BOR)

Battle Creek Update

Two workshops sponsored by the Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy and the Battle Creek Working Group were held on March 10 in Manton and March 11 in Red Bluff. Both meetings were well attended. A Memorandum of Agreement has been drafted and a process has been identified for including non-governmental organizations in the development of the MOU. The Roundtable will discuss the MOU at the April 22, 1999, Roundtable meeting.

Administrative Costs

Wendy Halverson Martin, Restoration Coordinator, discussed the issues associated with determining administrative costs for project management. The goal is to simplify the process, to reduce administrative costs and to reduce the steps and time in disbursement of funds. Wendy and Susan Ramos at the Bureau of Reclamation will continue to work on this topic keep the Roundtable informed of progress.

The Bureau of Reclamation is hiring two new positions. One is an engineer with a construction background and the second will be an auditor/program specialist. The auditor/program specialist will be used in the proposal review process to assist in analyzing the budgets and scopes of work of the proposals submitted.

FY '00 Funding Status

95 million dollars is identified in the President's Fiscal Year 2000 Budget. Of that, 75 million is identified for ecosystem restoration. Some concern was raised about adequately showing progress to date and the need to provide coordinated support to ensure CALFED receives the funding. CALFED staff is working on developing an improved Quarterly Reporting format.

Conflict of Interest

Danae Aitchison from the Attorney General's office gave a presentation on conflict of interest (COI) in relation to proposal review. COI is considered at three levels in the review process; the Technical Review Panels, Integration Panel, and the Ecosystem Roundtable. For the Roundtable, she noted that public officials (Roundtable members) are disqualified from participating in the making of a contract in which they have a financial interest. She explained two exceptions, a remote interest exception which must be declared publicly, and a non-interest exception which generally need not be declared. Roundtable members will be required to make COI determinations prior to review of funding recommendations at the June 16, 1999 Roundtable meeting.

Development of Technical Review Panels

A memorandum was distributed which explained the proposal review process and development of Technical Review Panels (TRPs). The Integration Panel provided guidance for TRP composition and initial recommendations on the types of expertise needed on each panel for the seven topic areas. Roundtable members and members of the public made some suggestions for additional types of expertise and potential panel members.